for identification of successful bidder for this project has been set as December, 2006.

Closure of power projects for upgradation

1442. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some thermal and hydro power projects in the country particularly in Maharashtra are closed down in order to upgrade their capacity of power generation, which affects power generation heavily; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing necessary assistance to re-start these power projects with more capacity?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Thermal and Hydro Power Projects in the country are shut down when Renovation and Modernisation (R&M) / Life Extension (LE) and Upgrading (U) of the generating units are taken up and that effects the generation. At present no thermal unit is under shut down due to R&M/LE works in Maharashtra. Shut down of Nasik Thermal Power Station Unit 1&2 identified for LE works would be taken up in phased manner to ensure minimum disruption of generation from the power station.

(b) to expedite the implementation of R&M works, the Government is providing benefits under the Accelerated Generation and Supply Programme (AG&SP) for funding the identified R&M/LE schemes through Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation.

Supply of Naphtha for power projects

1443. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of power projects affected due to poor reserve of naphtha fuel;

(b) Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for assured and regular supply or naphtha fuel to various power projects in the country;

(d) whether Government have made any agreement with any foreign country for regular supply of naphtha fuel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No power project is affected due to poor reserve of Naphtha fuel as there is no shortage of Naphtha for power projects in the country.

(d) No, Sir. There has been a reduction in demand of Naphtha for power plants mainly because of increase in the cost of Naphtha by about 150% over the last 5 years. As a result of the reduced off-take by the power plants, there is a surplus situation in Naphtha and the same is being exported by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

(e) Does not arise.

Pending projects of NTPC

1444. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Power Projects of NTPC still pending for clearance by Central Government, as on date; and

(b) the number of projects making progress with full speed, Project-wise, State-wise and Capacity-wise as on date?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has finalized Feasibility Reports(FRs)/Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for ten new schemes with a total capacity of 9821 MW, Proposals for which are under various stages of clearances/approvals. Details of these schemes are given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).